



February 26, 2024
Commission Meeting Minutes
Point Arena, CA
Teleconference & Zoom Conference Call

Commissioners Present

Erica D’Anis	Ben Anderson	Sandra Applegate
Jenine Miller	Mo Mulheren	Maria May

Commissioners Absent

Bekkie Emery		
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Public Present

Townley Saye	Andres Alvarado	Sariah Neff
Jenna Flesch	Jade Aldrich	Karla Kohler
Bonnie Boek	Megan Carson	Tara Yoast
Monica Galliani	Emily McConnell	Katheryn Reihl
Maria Fuentes		

ITEM 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner D’Anis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The Commission and staff made introductions.

ITEM 2 MINDFUL MINUTE

Bonnie Boek guided the attendees in a mindful minute to ground and arrive.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Commissioner D’Anis opened public comment on non-agendized items. No comment was offered. Commissioner D’Anis closed public comment.

ITEM 4 CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: December

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar

Motion: Mulheren, Second: Applegate

Yes: Anderson, Applegate, D’Anis, May, Miller, Mulheren

Abstain: None

Absent: Emery

Motion: Passed

ITEM 5 **BUDGET TRACKER (ACTION)**

ED Saye and Business Manager Jenna Flesch reviewed the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report for July 2023 through January 2024. Mendocino County has been having delays in closing their books. The tracker will be a standing item on the agenda moving forward so the Commission can have more interaction with the budget. The Admin Grant Revenue fund had been affected by the Round 1 and Family Empowerment Center Grant funds being delayed. The Family & Children's Services Grant was just executed and will be dispersed. Commissioner Mulheren advised the County books will be closed shortly and asked if there were any red flags to staff. ED Saye reported there were no red flags and that balances had been maintained with a 1% increase in revenue and a 1% decrease in expenses.

Motion to approve the current budget trackers for FY 23-24

Yes: Anderson, Applegate, D'Anis, May, Miller, Mulheren

Abstain: None

Absent: Emery

Motion: Passed

ITEM 6 **ED & STAFF UPDATE**

- The new office open house was a success, and it was well attended. Staff are recommending that an event like it be scheduled annually for partner networking and information exchange.
- January was Positive Parenting Awareness month: Supervisor Mulheren sponsored a proclamation, and the updated Positive Parenting Awareness banner was displayed across State Street in Ukiah for a week.
- ED Saye and Raise & Shine team members Bonnie Boek and Jade Aldrich went to Sacramento to advocate for Triple P America and Positive Parenting Awareness.
- Saye and Staff returned to Sacramento for the First 5 Association Annual Meeting and Legislative Days on February 6-7. Saye and the other First 5 Directors met with Legislators to advocate for continued support for children and families in California. It was noted that some of the new equity and agency resiliency information shared for implementation has been in practice in First 5 Mendocino for years.
- Saye discussed the Kindergarten Readiness Survey which was a collaboration between First 5 Mendocino and the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) and executed by Applied Survey Research. This is the first Kindergarten Readiness Survey ever done in Mendocino County that includes parents, caregivers, teachers, and other childhood educators. One of the takeaways was the need to uplift Family Resource Centers as an available resource in communities. Families, educators, and children are all suffering from stress and MCOE has asked that First 5 Mendocino bring the Community Resiliency Model to the educators and the schools.
- Raise & Shine team member Sariah Neff has been working diligently to create the new Raise & Shine website and make it fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. She has also created County Resource Maps and a resource Padlet that are available from the website.

- Perinatal & Early Childhood Support Manager Alex Rounds has redesigned and updated the BreastStart rack cards.
- Saye and Rounds hold seats on multiple committees dedicated to the betterment of children and families in Mendocino County. The Committees include Healthy Mendocino Steering Committee, Public Health Population/Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee, 2-1-1 Steering Committee, and Incubate One Table Committee.
- Saye went to the Mendocino Transit Authority town hall meeting. MTA is actively looking for ways to meet the needs of Mendocino County communities. They are working with Humbolt to create a line that runs from Humbolt, through Mendocino County, and to Sonoma.
- Upcoming events include the State of the Child, SELPA Conference, NICWA, HOPE Summit, Indigenous Doula Training, SELPA, RCRC, FEC Medical Disability vs. Educational Disability (Redwood Coast Regional Center), and Kin-First System.
- To provoke thought for the Planning meeting, a dynamic document will be sent out that can be accessed by staff and commissioners to document and prioritize funding needs, ideas, and preferences. This vision board will be used at the planning meeting to prioritize budget items.
- Saye advocated for the Policy Council on Children and Youth to create a recommendation/campaign related to safe spaces and public safety after a recent incident where a registered sex offender, while under the influence of narcotics, chased young preteens/teens through the street downtown. Saye will be meeting with Victoria Kelley from Redwood Community Services regarding this.
- Boek publicly thanked the Raise & Shine team for their collaborative efforts to lift the Family Resource & Empowerment Center services to the public.
- Executive Assistant Karla Kohler reported on recent diaper distribution to partners.

ITEM 7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (CLOSED SESSION) (ACTION)

Closed session discussion.

ITEM 8 REPORT OUT OF ITEM 7 (OPEN SESSION)

The Commission reported that ED Saye's performance review and survey results were highly complementary, and that her work for First 5 Mendocino is exceptional.

ITEM 9 COMMISSIONER REPORTS, STAFF COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUORUM CHECK & ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Commissioner May reported that the pediatrician for Mendocino Coast Clinics is leaving at the end of the month and they are actively recruiting.

Commissioner Anderson reported that the Mendocino Community Health Clinics are desperately searching for a bilingual therapist.

Commissioners Miller and Mulheren had nothing to report.

Commissioner Applegate and D'Anis had no professional reports.

Saye asked everyone to save the date for the First 5 Summit for 2025, February 10-12.

Commissioners D'Anis, Anderson, Applegate, May, Mulheren, and Miller expect to attend the next Commission meeting at a public space on Monday, April 15.

Commissioner D'Anis closed the meeting at 3:00 pm.